

# RESUMÉ

MONIKA ESSEN, ARTIST/DESIGNER  
15301 MACK AVE, DETROIT, MI 48204  
MONIKA@STUDIOEPOQUE.COM 586.662.9813



Design for Theatre, Opera and Film  
Residential and Commercial Interior Design  
Custom Furniture & Artwork

## PRODUCTION DESIGNER

Blackbird Theatre, Ann Arbor, MI  
Midsummer Night's Dream  
Performance Network, Ann Arbor, MI  
Sins of Sor Juana, She Loves Me, A Doll's House, Amadeus, Dirty Blonde, Bakers Wife,  
Souvenir, Entrances and Exits, The Little Dog Laughed, Nine Parts of Desire,  
Geoff & Jeffery, Rosencrantz & Guildenstern are Dead, Fences, Christmas Carol'd,  
Little Shop or Horrors  
Cranbrook Academy of Art, Bloomfield Hills, MI  
Serious Moonlight Fundraising Event  
Cherry Hill Theatre, Canton, MI  
Mrs. Shakespeare  
Tree Top Theatre Co, Ann Arbor, MI  
Whistler  
Shakesperience Co., Hamtramck, MI  
The Tempest, Comedy of Errors  
Appletree Theatre Co., Highland Park, IL  
Ain't Misbehavin'  
Swollen Arts Productions, Detroit, MI  
Virginia

## SCENIC DESIGNER AND SCENIC ARTIST

Meadowbrook Theatre, Rochester, MI  
Mindgame  
Tipping Point Theatre, Northville MI  
I love you--Your Perfect--Now Change  
St Dunstan's Theatre – Bloomfield Hills, MI  
The Producers  
Lansing Community College, Lansing, MI  
Angels in American—Part 1  
Michigan Opera Theatre, Detroit, MI  
The Maker of Illusions, The Very Last Green Thing  
Alabama Shakespeare Festival, Montgomery, AL  
Trojan Women  
Performance Network, Ann Arbor, MI  
Maiden's Prayer, Fuddy Meers, Maggie Rose, Struggling Truths, Taking Leave,  
White Rose, Special Relativity, Elizabeth Rex, Spirit House, Necessary Targets,  
Man of La Mancha, Kimberly Akimbo, Humble Boy, Boston Marriage,  
Summer and Smoke, Three Penny Opera, Ice Glen, Life in the Theatre,  
I Am My Own Wife, Retreat from Moscow, Fantasticks!, Language Lessons, Candida,  
Clean House  
Off Broadway Theatre, Milwaukee, WI  
Mrs. Shakespeare Dishes the Dirt

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## SCENIC DESIGNER AND SCENIC ARTIST (continued)

Boarshead Theatre, Lansing, MI

Dance Like No One's Watching, King o' the Moon, Moonglow

Roper Theatre Company, Birmingham, MI

Romeo & Juliet

Croswell Opera House, Adrian, MI

Beauty and the Beast

Jewish Ensemble Theatre, West Bloomfield, MI

Falsettos, Shiva Queen, Anne Frank and Me, Cemetery Club, Never the Sinner,

The Immigrant, The Day We Met, Prisoner of Second Ave., Broken Glass,

Twilight of the Golds, Conversations With My Father, Another Antigone,

Horowitz & Mrs. Washington, Romeo & Juliet, Talley's Folly, Laramie Project,

Tommy J & Sally, Visiting Mr. Green, Denial, The Chosen, Dirty Story, Nobody's Gilgul,

Boy Gets Girl, I'm Not Rappaport, Door to Door, 74 Georgia Ave, Last Yankee,

Fiddler on the Roof, Dybbuk for Two People, The Blank Page, The Big Bang,

The Tale of the Allergist's Wife

Detroit Repertory Company, Detroit, MI

Daytrips

Circa 21 Theatre, Rock Island, IL

Phantom of the Opera

Appletree Theatre, Highland Park, IL

The Swan

Hilberry Repertory Company, Detroit, MI

Noises Off, Arms and the Man, On the Razzle, Alice in Wonderland, Chicago,

Sea Horse, Speed the Plow, Find Me, Normal Heart, Woman in Black, Cocktail Hour

## COSTUME DESIGNER

Performance Network, Ann Arbor, MI

A Picasso, The Blonde The Brunette and the Vengeful Redhead

## PROPERTY DESIGNER

**Michigan Opera Theatre, Detroit, MI**

**Resident Designer/Property Master, 1998--Present**

Manon Lescaut, The Elixir of Love, Porgy and Bess, Turandot, Lucia di Lammermoor,

Madame Butterfly, Eugene Onegin, Samson and Delillah, Tosca, Barber of Seville,

Peter Grimes, Der Rosencavalier, Cosi Fan Tutte, La Boheme, Falstaff,

Tales of Hoffmann, Otello, Lakmé, Figaro, La Traviata, Don Pasquale, Il Trovatore,

Don Giovanni, Die Fledermaus, Dead Man Walking, Masked Ball, Werther, Carmen,

Anoush, Madame Butterfly, Magic Flute, Pirates of Penzance, Pearl Fishers, Rigoletto,

Faust, Daughter of the Regiment, Margaret Garner, Norma, La Boheme, Aida,

Cenerentola, Salome, Porgy and Bess, Barber of Seville, Romeo and Juliet, Cyrano,

Marriage of Figaro, La Sonambula, La Rondine, La Traviata, Margaret Garner,

Madam Butterfly, Elixer of Love, Carmen, Nabucco, A Little Night Music

Hilberry Repertory Co., Detroit, MI

Winter's Tale, She Stoops to Conquer, Three Penny Opera, Cocktail Hour

Jewish Ensemble Theatre, West Bloomfield, MI

Resident Alien, Falsettos, Shiva Queen, Anne Frank and Me, Never the Sinner

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## SCENIC ARTIST

Lifetime Movies, Detroit MI – Something in the Dark  
International Auto Show, Detroit MI - Jeep Exhibit  
Grace and Wild, Farmington Hills, MI - Volkswagen Commercial Backdrop  
SAE Annual Meeting, Detroit, MI - Stage Backdrop  
Grand Rapids Ballet - Grand Rapids, MI - Backdrop for Nutcracker  
Meadowbrook Theatre, Pontiac, MI - Piano Lesson, Shadowlands, Corpse!  
Hilberry Repertory Co., Detroit, MI - Les Liasons Dangereuses

## FILM/COMMERCIALS – SET DECORATOR/ART DIRECTOR

For Rysher Entertainment - Judicial Consent (for HBO)  
For Scott Shuptrine - Go West, Accessory Sale  
For Big City Films - The Music Challenge

## INTERIOR/EXTERIOR DESIGNER

Banister Shoe Co., Philadelphia, PA  
Lenscrafters, Cincinnati, OH  
Hot Dawg & More, Farmington, MI  
Posner Gallery, Southfield, MI  
EJ Plumb Socks, Cincinnati, OH  
Joshiwicz Residence, Orchard Lake, MI  
Detroit Race Track, Livonia, MI  
Wayne Shopping Center Renovation, Westland, MI  
Great Expectations Hair Salon, Long Island, NY  
Farmington Hills City Offices, Farmington Hills, MI  
E. Mueller Residence, Hartland, MI  
Jennifer Foss Salon, Canton, MI  
D. Mueller Residence, Northville, MI  
Basile Residence, Grosse Pte., MI  
Bloomfield Residence, Grosse Pte., MI  
A. Mueller Residence, Ann Arbor, MI  
Summer Home, Saugatuck, MI  
Interpretive Classrooms, Detroit Zoological Society, Royal Oak, MI

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## AWARDS

Best Scenic Design (Fences) 2009 Ann Arbor News  
Best Scenic Design (Midsummer Night's Dream) 2009 Ann Arbor News  
Best Design (Fences) 2009 nominated – Between the Lines  
Best Set Design (Fences) 2009 – Subscribers' Choice Award  
Best Costume Design (Rosencrantz and Guildenstern) 2009 – Subscribers' Choice Award  
Best Design (Baker's Wife) 2008 "Wilde" Award – Between the Lines  
Best Set Design (Baker's Wife) 2008 – Subscribers' Choice Award  
Best Costume Design (Baker's Wife) 2008 – Subscribers' Choice Award  
Best Design (Candida) 2007 nominated – Between the Lines  
Best Set Design (Language Lessons) 2007– Subscribers' Choice Award  
Best Costume Design (Amadeus) 2007 – Subscribers' Choice Award  
Best Design (Summer and Smoke) 2005 - Ann Arbor News  
Best Design (Humble Boy) 2005 "Opie" award - Oakland Press  
Best Design (Last Yankee) 2005 "Wilde" award - Between the Lines  
Best Design (Humble Boy) 2005 nominated - Detroit Free Press  
Best Design (Kimberly Akimbo) 2004 nominated - Oakland Press  
The Detroit Free Press "Lawrence Devine Award" for  
Outstanding Contribution to the Theatre - 2003  
Best Design (Visiting Mr. Green & Denial) 2003 nominated - Detroit Free Press  
Best Design (Necessary Targets) 2003 nominated - Oakland Press  
Best Design (Elizabeth Rex) 2002 nominated - Detroit Free Press  
Best Design (Romeo & Juliet) 2002 nominated - Oakland Press  
Best Design (Twilight Of The Golds) 2001 nominated - Oakland Press  
Best Design (Broken Glass) 2000 "Opie" award - Oakland Press  
Best Design (Never the Sinner) 1999 "Opie" award - Oakland Press  
Best Design (Noises Off) 1991 nominated - The Detroit News  
Hilberry Fellowship Grant (WSU)- 89-92  
Best of School and State- American Society of Interior Designers project competitions

## AFFILIATIONS

United Scenic Artists Local 829 - Scenic Designer and Scenic Artist

## EDUCATION

MFA in Scenography, Summa Cum Laude - Hilberry Repertory Co./Wayne State University, Detroit, MI  
BA in Interior Design, Magna Cum Laude - Wayne State University, Detroit, MI  
Design Program in Environmental and Interior Architecture - Parson's School of Design, New York, NY